



## Pennsylvania Chapter

May 11, 2022

City of Bethlehem Planning Commission  
10 E. Church Street  
Bethlehem, PA 18018

re: (21-003-LD&S) - 21020002 - South New Street Apts. - 319-27 S. New Street,  
plan revised February 21, 2022 - MEETING Thur. May 12, 2022

Members of the Planning Commission:

I write to indicate the opposition of the Sierra Club Pennsylvania Chapter to the portion of the above proposed development plan that would include an almost-2000-square-foot extension of this proposed high-rise building into the right-of-way of the South Bethlehem Greenway, including construction of three large building pillars within the Greenway itself. I am sorry I cannot attend your May 12 meeting as I must attend a Sierra Club meeting at the same time.

This proposed intrusion into the Greenway, a public park and pedestrian pathway, is entirely inconsistent with and a desecration of this key South Bethlehem icon. **No building or structure should ever be constructed over or within the Greenway.**

As a Bethlehem resident, as a representative of the Sierra Club, and as the chair of the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley's Outdoors and Wellness Committee of Southside Vision 2014 and 2020, along with its leader, my friend Alan Jennings, I participated in the early development of activities for the Greenway. The Lehigh Valley Sierra Club, which I led at the time, held an Earth Day festival with environmental displays, childrens activities, and food stands on the Greenway several years ago. The Greenway has become of hub of outdoor activities involving the entire South Bethlehem community. At the opening of Phase 4 of the Greenway in September 2017, William Alexander Karras, chief of staff for Bethlehem Mayor Bob Donchez, said, "The South Bethlehem Greenway is a long-term investment into our community and the region, It provides much-needed green space and recreation opportunity on South Bethlehem. It also provides benefits for healthier living, economic development and community revitalization".

Please do not allow this "long-term investment" of our City to have its protected green space and recreational opportunity damaged by this offensive building intrusion into this South Bethlehem gem.

Very truly yours,  
Donald W. Miles  
co-Chairman  
Pennsylvania Sierra Club  
Homestead Ave, Bethlehem, PA 18018